

PROVIDENCE, R.I.
BULLETIN

E. 145,796

FEB 9 1966

Intelligence Role Vital, Says Former CIA Man

If the intelligence network available to the President today had existed in 1941 "the likelihood of Pearl Harbor would have been much less," according to Prof. Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr., Brown University political scientist and former executive director and controller of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Professor Kirkpatrick stressed as vital in Presidential decision-making the evaluation processes which are integral parts of present day national intelligence systems in a speech before the Providence Rotary Club yesterday.

Not only do the CIA and the intelligence units of the Army, Navy, Defense Department, Atomic Energy Commission and others pool raw information but it is routinely evaluated, he said.

"The President gets an estimate as to what is likely to happen," he said, adding that to a former intelligence officer the most "chilling" thought is to consider the possibility of a piece of raw information reach-

ing the President without prior evaluation.

The Brown University professor, who came to Rhode Island last year after 23 years in government intelligence work, said he feels criticism of this country's intelligence system as "irresponsible" is unjustified.

"It is under the direct orders of the President, is carefully supervised by four congressional committees and, in my opinion, is highly responsible," he said.

Careful collection of raw information, coordinated through the National Intelligence Board, resulted in President Kennedy's successful moves in the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, he said. Once it was known definitely that the Russians were building missile bases in Cuba, he said, the intelligence system was able to tell the President what the Russians would do if the President ordered them to take the missiles and bombers out of Cuba.

"It was our estimate that they would take them out, based on a careful analysis of Russian behavior," he said.

It wasn't until World War II that a truly professional in-

telligence system developed, he said. Prior to the work of William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan for President Roosevelt which led to formation of the Office of Strategic Services "our intelligence was rather spotty," he said.

George Washington had a good intelligence system in the Revolutionary War but in the Civil War neither the Union nor Confederate forces knew what the other side was doing, he said. In the Spanish-American War our intelligence was such "that we sent troops to Cuba in winter uniforms," he added.

In World War I this country relied on the undependable intelligence work on our allies, the French and British. At the end of World War II, the Office of Strategic Services, which had developed into an organization employing 30,000 persons, left a trained cadre of intelligence experts, important files and overseas contacts available to us in constructing the present national intelligence system.

He described the present system as "constantly improving" and staffed by "extremely dedicated personnel."